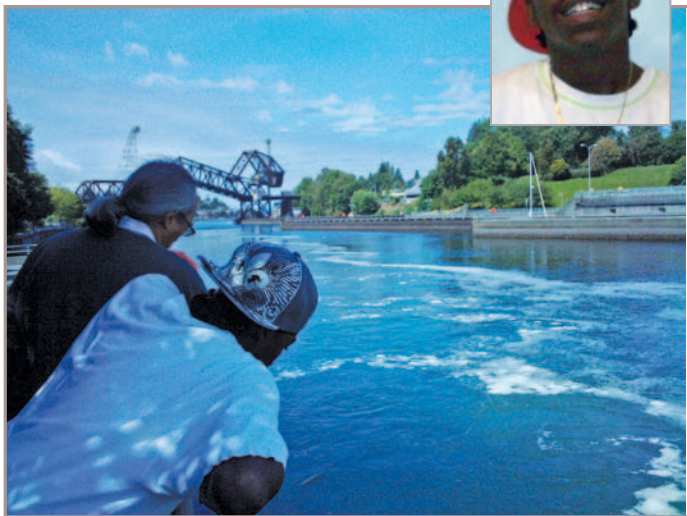


## Ballard Locks

By William Myles



Finally, I learned that no one besides members of certain tribes is authorized to fish at the Ballard Locks. They are the only people who can fish there because of their history; they've been here for thousands of years. This land had been their home and that is why that whole area is "no fishing area to anyone" except certain Native American tribes.

The Ballard Locks are important because without it boaters wouldn't be able to enter and leave Lake Washington in Seattle. They are also a wonderful place to check out. Just go relax, watch exciting things and have a good time. I also liked how there were a lot of walking trails too. This is a place to walk or jog and check out the view. There is lots of grass, places to sit and a bunch of people to see. It is a place not only with its peaceful beauty but also a very useful site for the city.

My field work study trip to the Ballard Locks, which is located in Ballard, was one of the best. We got to see all the boats enter and leave the Locks. It was just an interesting process. We saw the water rise and fall like an elevator, pushing six to seven boats up to the height of the freshwater, or down to the height of the saltwater. Also, while looking in the water we saw either seals or sea lions chasing and trying to trap a school of salmon so that they could feed on them. There were hundreds of people out there maybe even more, so there had to be a lot of tourists coming from all different places around the world.

Before I ever came to the Ballard Locks I just heard of it from others. But one thing I could tell you is that there's a wonderful view and it's just a cool place to be. You might want to go read a book, or take a jog up there one day and enjoy the view. I learned a few things from visiting the Ballard Locks. One of them was I just found out that seals and sea lions were predators to the salmon.

I also learned that water is used to elevate boats passing through to the two bodies of water from Lake Washington to Puget Sound. Every time boats come in and out of the Locks they're also releasing water through a lock system. I also saw how all the salmon go up a fish ladder and into freshwater so they could lay their eggs. This is called spawning.

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